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10/822,098

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Pu-Yang Yeh

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EXAMINER

PARKER, BRANDI P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3624

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DELIVERY MODE

07/17/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/822,098 | Applicant(s) YEH ET AL. | |
| | Examiner BRANDI P. PARKER | Art Unit 3624 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgements

1. The following is a Final Office action in response to communications filed on 2/26/2009. Claims 1-11 are pending. Claim 4 has been amended.

Response to Amendments

2. Applicant's amendment to 4, filed on 2/26/2009, has been fully considered and is persuasive. The rejection of claims 4-11 under 35 USC § 101 has been withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

3. In response to Applicant's argument located on page 8-9 of Applicant's remarks that Zeif reference does not teach a performance assessing system involving products machining collecting daily schedule results from the product machining scheduling system or fails to teach real time data stored in a document, Examiner respectfully disagrees. Zeif teaches the collection of scheduled production run time of equipment from process stations on a manufacturing line that is generated from the scheduling module (column/line 12/54-60). Moreover, Zeif teaches the measurement of performance and evaluation of equipment from process stations on a manufacturing line and stores the information in a data table, or array, etc (column/line 11/54-56). A physical "document" consists of printed matter. It has been held that where the printed

Art Unit: 3624

matter is not functionally related to the substrate, the printed matter will not distinguish the invention from the prior art in terms of patentability [T]he critical question is whether there exists any new and unobvious functional relationship between the printed matter and the substrate. *In re Gulack*, 217 USPQ 401 (Fed. Cir. 1983), *In re Ngai*, 70 USPQ2d (Fed. Cir. 2004), *In re Lowry*, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.01 II. Therefore, Zeif does teach and suggest the above limitations. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zeif (US 7209859) in view of Park et al (US 2003/0004969).

6. With respect to claims 1, 3, and 4 Zeif teaches a performance assessing system comprising a database and a plurality of client computers connected with an application server, the application server being connected with a product machining scheduling system, wherein:

- a. the database stores a plurality of products machining documents and a plurality of performance assessing tables of employees (column/line 11/54-56, regarding data collection table storing real time production data); and
- b. the application server comprises:
 - i. a machining status tracing module for collecting daily schedule results from the product machining scheduling system, storing the schedule results in a corresponding products machining document, and (column/line 12/54-60, regarding schedule shift time and production run time);
 - ii. a performance assessing module for computing an employee's work hours and work efficiency, analyzing the employee's work quality, and storing the starting time record, the finishing time record, the employee's work hours, the employee's work efficiency, and the employee's work quality in a corresponding employee performance assessing table (column/line 29/49-61, regarding tracking employee efficiency including employee's daily hours); and

Art Unit: 3624

- iii. a performance report generating module for generating a performance report according to the work hours, the work efficiency, and the work quality of the employee stored in the performance assessing table (column/line 6/32-35).

Zeif does not directly teach the recording the product's start and finish time.

However, Park teaches:

storing each product's machining status, actual starting time and actual finishing time in the products machining document (paragraph 0015)

generating a starting time record and a finishing time record for each product according to the products machining documents (paragraph 0015)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the business system of Zeif with the ability to the recording the product's start and finish time as taught by Park since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

2. As to claim 2 and 5, Zeif teaches the performance assessing system as described in claim 1, wherein the machining status tracing module comprises a

Art Unit: 3624

schedule results collecting sub-module and a finished products information maintaining sub-module, wherein:

c. the schedule results collecting sub-module collects daily schedule results from the product machining scheduling system, and stores the schedule results in the products machining documents; and the finished products information maintaining sub-module records and stores the actual starting times, the actual finishing times, and the machining statuses of the products in the performance assessing tables (column/line 24/23-41, regarding equipment tracking interface).

3. With respect to claim 10, Zeif teaches the performance assessing method as described in claim 4, wherein the step of analyzing the work quality of the employee comprises:

d. checking whether the products are behind or ahead of schedule according to the machining statuses of the products in the performance assessing table of the employee, and storing the checking results in the performance assessing table of the employee (column/line 9/ 36-40, regarding the interactive screen displaying real-time data including how far ahead or behind schedule the employee is in producing units); and

e. inspecting the quality of the products finished by the employee, and storing the inspection results in the performance assessing table of the employee

Art Unit: 3624

(column/line 36/22-30, regarding quality inspection station and collected data being stored and reported).

4. As to claim 11, Zeif teaches the performance assessing method as described in claim 10. Wherein the quality of the products checked may be passed or rejected consist of language that suggest or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed or does not limit a claim to a particular structure does not limit the scope of a claim or claim limitation. MPEP §2106 II C

5. Regarding claims 6-9, Zeif teaches the method in claim 4, the provides the work hours, work efficiency and the scheduled work time for each product finished by the employee (Figures 16a-d, where a particular is associated with a workstation where a specific product is produced). The actual start time at each particular station begins when the employee inserts and employee identification card (column/line 12/45-48). Because the numbers required for claims 6-9 are provided in Zeif, a predictable result would be to utilize old and well known mathematical methods to calculate specific data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to perform simple arithmetic on the data provided by the system in Zeif to produce work hours, work efficiency, scheduled work time, and actual work time.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

7. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRANDI P. PARKER whose telephone number is (571) 272-9796. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs. 8-5pm.

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bradley B. Bayat can be reached on (571) 272-6704. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3624

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BRANDI P PARKER/
Examiner, Art Unit 3624

/Romain Jeanty/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3624
July 15, 2009